

**STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
PROBLEM GAMBLING &
ADDICITON SERVICES**

May 10, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Country Inn & Suites
Executive Conference Room
5353 North 27th St., Lincoln, NE

Commission Members Present: John Atherton, Wayne Choat, Janet French, Theo Hudson, Steven Jung, Kate Speck, Dick Stalker, Brenda Wagner

Commission Members Absent: Sherrie Geier, Lisa Jones, Lynda Lakin, Tom Nutt

HHS Staff Present: Gordon Tush, Linda Jensen

Guests Present: Jerry Bauerkemper, Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling

I. CALL TO ORDER

John Atherton, Vice Chairperson of the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling conducted the meeting in the absence of Sherrie Geier, Chairperson. He called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Linda Jensen called the roll of members and determined that a quorum was present.

I. INTRODUCTIONS/WELCOME

John Atherton welcomed all members and one guest.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2004 AND FEBRUARY 8, 2005 MINUTES

By general consent the November 10, 2004 and February 8, 2005 minutes (attached) were approved as presented.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

John asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda (attached). Gordon Tush asked for flexibility on agenda item V., as Jerry Bauerkemper will be arriving later and reporting on the Program Gambling Spring Conference. By general consent the agenda as approved.

IV. PUBLIC/PROVIDER COMMENT

There were no public comments at this time.

UNFINISHED BUISNESS

V. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Gordon distributed a handout containing information on legislative bills LB 551 and LB 332 and letters of support (attached).

LB 551 -on final reading

- The LB 551 Bill changes the training requirements for alcohol and drug abuse counselor training supervisors.
 - Presently regulations require a certified alcohol and drug counselor to supervise a trainee.
 - This bill has been introduced to allow psychologists and medical doctors who have specialized training in substance and drug abuse to supervisor trainees.
 - Regulations are to be written by the physicians and the psychologists boards with advice provided by the Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling.

- The bill establishes a data information system that will report to the Behavioral Health Oversight Commission to oversee the implementation of Mental Health Reform.
- The bill changes the membership of this committee and the overarching Behavioral Health Council. The committee must have at least 3 consumer members. Two of these must be appointed to the Behavioral Health Council.
 - Gordon and the committee members agreed that consumer anonymity should be maintained when selecting members of the Behavioral Health Council.
 - He explained a possible way to maintain the consumer anonymity. If the Governor appoints four consumers to the twelve member Problem Gambling Advisory Committee, the consumers could be anonymous. It would not make any difference how the Committee selects the ten, two consumers would automatically be included.
 - There are four members of this committee, whose terms will end in July 2005.
 - Lisa Jones has expressed that she will not likely seek another term to the committee.

LB 332

- This bill was originally introduced to take \$500,000 from the Lottery's cash fund for problem gambling funding. The Lottery convinced the Legislature that there is not \$500,000 in their cash fund. The bill is still on general file.
- The bill was amended to take \$500,000 out of the Lottery's operating fund for charitable gaming.
- Jerry Bauerkemper's comments on current legislative bills
 - The legislature vowed to review problem gambling in 2008 because the entire process of Lottery needs to be reviewed at that time.
 - He feels this committee should start advocating before 2008 for an adequate amount of funding for Nebraska problem gambling.
 - The Nebraska Council on Problem Gambling will work with this committee to support legislation that would provide adequate problem gambling funding.

Question: Theo Hudson

If a current bill passes this year to increased problem gambling funding, what are the chances that the increase will be taken away next year?

Answer: Jerry Bauerkemper

If the increase in funding is passed this year there is a high likelihood that it will be reconsidered next year.

Question: Janet French

Is there any information to provide the commission members as individuals to communicate to our personal legislators?

Answer: Gordon Tush

There is information in today's meeting packet (attached) including support letters for LB 332 and LB 557 and other problem gambling funding references.

- Gordon Tush, Sherrie Geier and Kate Speck worked together to compose the letters to Senator Jensen. The letters represented this committee's support to LB 332 and LB 551 legislation.

VI. NPGAW & SPRING CONFERENCE REPORT

Jerry Bauerkemper reported the following on the Spring Conference:

- Sixty-five attended the Spring Conference this year.
- The people promoting casino type gambling in Nebraska have joined in efforts for funding problem gambling activities.
- The Problem Gambling Awareness Group is growing in size and showing progress in their efforts.
- The Conference was well received and there were excellent presenters.
- The Spring Conference may be changed to one day or a half day next year.

- Jerry and Kate Speck have received interest from SAAC (Substance Abuse and Addictions Coalition) in Lancaster County in the effort to move their yearly conference to March and have a dual conference.
- Gordon suggested cross training screenings for substance abuse and problem gambling.
- Jerry said Prairieland's ATTC (Addiction Technology Transfer Center) involvement with the conference is very influential in this region. ATTC is a federally funded alcohol and drug organization.

NEW BUSINESS

VII. TIM CHRISTENSEN'S RESIGNATION

Tim Christensen has resigned as the Problem Gambling Manager and accepted a position in the State of Arizona Gaming Division.

- The hiring process for the Problem Gambling Manager is being conducted now, and Gordon anticipates the full time position to be filled in June.
- There is also a half-time Problem Gambling Program Specialist/half-time Field Representative recruitment process to replace Gordon Tush.

VIII. FINANCIAL

Gordon led the discussion and explained the "Estimated FY05 Expenditure" and "Summary of Compulsive Gambling Fund #2175 reports (attached).

- It is estimated that the cash balance as of July 1, 2005 will be approximately \$400,876 and without change in allocations it is estimated that the July 1, 2006 balance will be \$370,000.
- He suggested that a beginning balance of \$300,000 on July 1, 2006 for operating funds would be an adequate amount to start fiscal year 2006.
- He supplied the committee members with an outline of a "Plan" which includes a no increase in funds scenario and an increased funding scenario (attached) to review for future planning.
- He said if LB 332 passes he plans to renew RFP's at their current rate of reimbursement for FY05/06.

A MOTION was made by Dick Stalker that the State Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling and Addiction Services make provisions to have at least \$300,000 as of July 1, 2006 in their cash fund. By general consent the motion was approved.

A MOTION was made by Wayne Choat to increase the current total allocation for FY06 contracts to not exceed \$100,000. By general consent the motion was approved.

IX. PROGRAM REPORTS

Helpline

- Helpline services are up slightly from last year.
- Jerry Bauerkemper suggested making materials available to family members of problem gamblers an early piece of family intervention

Training

- Jerry Bauerkemper reported that he provides effective monthly training session with positive feedback.

Certification

- Some of the Problem Gambling Certification Advisory Board members' terms will be expired this year.

Magellan

- The Magellan data system still has two problems. They are:
 1. Accessing the system at the beginning of the month to enter billing documents
 2. Users getting locked out of the data system for using incorrect passwords.

X. REPORT/RECOMMENDATION(S) FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL & HHSS DIRECTOR

There were no recommendations to the Behavioral Council and HHSS Director. John Atherton asked Gordon to provide the summary of our meeting to the Behavioral Health Council concerning present legislation effecting problem gambling funding.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

John Atherton, Steven Jung, Lisa Jones and Brenda Wagner's appointment terms will be over July 1, 2005, unless Governor reappoints them.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held on August 9, 2005 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 p. m. The meeting will be held at the Country Inn & Suites located at 5353 North 27th Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. Committee members are encouraged to attend.

- Further meeting dates are set for November 8, 2005, February 7, 2006 and May 9, 2006.

XIII. ADJOURN

John asked if there was additional business for the Committee. There being none the meeting was ADJORNED by general consent at 12:00 p.m.

Prepared by Linda L. Jensen, Staff Assistant I, Division of Behavioral Health Services on May 16, 2005.

Approved by _____
Gordon Tush
Gamblers Assistance Program Interim Manager
Division of Behavioral Health Services

Date _____